

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5344
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN PARTICIPATION IN STATE OIL COMPANY
MEETING OPEC ECONOMIC COMMISSION BIODATE

1. DR ALBERTO FLORES ORTEGA, MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS AND ING OSCAR ROJAS BOCCALANDRO, VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION, WILL PARTICIPATE IN LONDON MEETING OF OPEC STATE PETROLEUM COMPANIES BEGINNING AUGUST 15. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HERE, THE LONDON MEETING WILL DISCUSS COORDINATION OF PRICES AND POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT MECHANISM TO PERMIT ONGOING CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE OPEC STATE OIL COMPANIES ON PRICING MATTERS. DR FLORES WILL PROCEED FROM LONDON MEETING WHEN IT ENDS TO VIENNA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPEC ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING SET FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

2. DR FLORES HAS RECENTLY ASSUMED IMPORTANT NEW RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE MINISTRY. PREVIOUSLY, HE HELD ONLY THE POSITION OF OPEC GOVERNOR FOR VENEZUELA IN ADDITION TO THAT
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POSITION, HE IS NOW CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF PETROLEUM

ECONOMICS, AND HEAD OF THE MINISTRY COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCE AND CONSERVATION.

3. DR FLORES WAS BORN FEBRUARY 5, 1936, IN MARACAIBO, VENEZUELA. HE HAS AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM THE UNITED STATES. HIS FIRST GOVERNMENT POSITION UPON RETURNING TO VENEZUELA WAS IN CORDIPLAN. THIS ORGANIZATION SENT HIM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES AT THE SORBONNE IN PARIS. NEXT, IN 1963 AND 1964, FLORES WORKED IN THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT OF THE VENEZUELAN CENTRAL BANK. HE THEN WORKED TWO YEARS AS AN ECONOMIST ON THE OPEC STAFF IN VIENNA, WHERE HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH VALENTIN HERNANDEZ, THEN VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, AND NOW VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS. FLORES WAS FOR SOME TIME ASSOCIATED WITH SIMON BOLIVAR UNIVERSITY IN CARACAS. HE IS MARRIED TO A WOMAN OF GERMAN ORIGIN AND HAS ONE CHILD. HE SPEAKS SPANISH, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN.

4. ING OSCAR ROJAS BOCCALANDRO IS THE COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, OR NO. 2 MAN, IN THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION. HE SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY UNDER THE PREVIOUS VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, BUT IS A MEMBER OF THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY, AND HAS BEEN RETAINED IN THE NEW AD ADMINISTRATION. HE IS KNOWN TO HOLD THE VIEW THAT THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION SHOULD HAVE THE MAJOR, IF NOT ONLY, ROLE IN THE VENEZUELAN OIL INDUSTRY AFTER REVERSION. MCCLINTOCK

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